

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

DANIEL WHITE)	
)	
Plaintiff)	Case Number
)	
vs.)	
)	CIVIL COMPLAINT
PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC)	
)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
)	
Defendant)	
)	

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

COMES NOW, Plaintiff, Daniel White, by and through his undersigned counsel, Brent F. Vullings, Esquire of Warren & Vullings, LLP, complaining of Defendant, and respectfully avers as follows:

I. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff, Daniel White, is an adult natural person and brings this action for actual and statutory damages and other relief against Defendant for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (“FDCPA”), the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity Act, 73 P.S. § 2270.4 (“PAFCEUA) and the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. § 201-1-201-9.3 (“UTPCPL”)

which prohibits debt collectors and original creditors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

II. JURISDICTION

2. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1337.

3. Venue in this District is proper in that the Defendant transacts business in this District and Plaintiff resides in this District.

III. PARTIES

4. Plaintiff, Daniel White, is an adult natural person residing at 9 Marlene Trail, Fairfield, Pennsylvania 17320.

5. Defendant, Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC (“Defendant”), at all times relevant hereto, is and was a corporation engaged in the business of collecting debt within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with its principal place of business located at 120 Corporate Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23502.

6. Defendant is engaged in the collection of debts from consumers using the telephone and mail. Defendant regularly attempts to collect consumer debts alleged to be due to another. Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

7. On or about July 13, 2009, at 12:28 pm, Plaintiff began receiving calls on his private home phone regarding a debt owed by his ex-wife Tammy Bond.

8. Plaintiff explained to Defendant's agent that he had been divorced from Ms. Bond for 14 years and that he hasn't seen or spoken to her in 13 years and that this is not his debt and to please remove his name from the account.

9. Defendant's assured him that they would remove his name and not call him again, but the calls continue.

10. At the end of July 2009, Plaintiff received another call from Defendant's agent who asked him for his social security number. Plaintiff did not give out this information. Plaintiff asked again for the calls to be stopped, and was hung up on.

11. On or about the end of July, 2009 Plaintiff was informed by his employer that they were aware that a collection agency had run a "skip trace" on him and that Defendant was performing a background check on him.

12. During a call from Defendant's agent at the end of July 2009, Plaintiff asked how it is that they got his name. Defendant informed Mr. White that Tammy Bond had used him as a family reference when she applied for her account.

13. Plaintiff was informed by his parents that they have also received calls from Defendant inquiring about the whereabouts of Tammy Bond; they too had been used as a reference.

14. The Defendant acted in a false, deceptive, misleading and unfair manner when they engaged in conduct the natural consequences of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse such person in connection with the collection of a debt.

15. The Defendant acted in a false, deceptive, misleading and unfair manner by threatening to take action that it did not intend to take for the purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the debt.

16. The Defendant knew or should have known that their actions violated the FDCPA. Additionally, Defendant could have taken the steps necessary to bring their and their agent's actions within compliance of the FDCPA, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review those actions to insure compliance with the law.

17. At all times pertinent hereto, Defendant was acting by and through its agents, servants and/or employees, who were acting with the scope and course of their employment and under the direct supervision and control of Defendant herein.

18. At all times pertinent hereto, the conduct of Defendant as well as its agents, servants and/or employees, was malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, negligent and in wanton disregard for federal and state law and the rights of the Plaintiff herein.

19. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff has sustained actual damages, including, but not limited to, injury to Plaintiff's reputation, invasion of privacy, damage to Plaintiff's credit, out-of-pocket expenses, physical, emotional and mental pain and anguish and pecuniary loss and he will continue to suffer same for an indefinite time in the future, all to his great detriment and loss.

COUNT 1 – FDCPA

20. The above paragraphs are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

21. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged debt which was incurred by Plaintiff for personal, family or household purposes and is a “debt” as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

22. The foregoing acts and omissions constitute violations of the FDCPA, including but not limited to, violations of §§1692b, 1692b(1), 1692b(2), 1692b(3), 1692c(a)(1), d, d(5), d(6), e, e(7), e(10), and f.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant, Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC for the following:

- a. Declaratory judgment that Defendant’s conduct violated the FDCPA and declaratory and injunctive relief for the Defendant’s violations of the state Act;
- b. Actual damages;
- c. Statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k;
- d. Reasonable attorney’s fees and litigation expenses, plus costs of suit; and
- e. Such additional and further relief as may be appropriate or that the interests of justice require.

COUNT II
VIOLATIONS OF PENNSYLVANIA FAIR CREDIT EXTENSION
UNIFORMITY ACT
(PAFCEUA, 73 Pa. C.S. § 2270.1 et seq.)

23. Plaintiffs repeat, re-allege and incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs.

24. The collection of a debt in Pennsylvania is proscribed by the Fair Credit Extension Uniformity Act at 73 Pa. C.S. § 2270.1 et seq., (“PAFCEUA”) and the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law 73 Pa. C.S. 201-1 et seq. (“UTPCPL”). Defendant is a debt collector pursuant to 73 Pa. C.S. § 2270.3.

25. The alleged debt Defendant was attempting to collect is a debt as defined by 73 Pa. C.S. § 2270.3.

26. The PAFCEUA proscribes, inter alia, engaging in any false, misleading or deceptive representations when attempting to collect a consumer debt.

27. The actions of Defendant, as aforesaid, constitute false, misleading or deceptive representations.

28. Violations of the FDCPA is a per se violation of the PAFCEUA and the UTPCPL.

29. As a direct and proximate result of the said actions, Plaintiffs have suffered financial harm.

30. By virtue of the violations of the law as aforesaid, and pursuant to the PAFCEUA and UTPCPL, Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of actual damages, treble damages, attorney's fee and costs of suit.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray this Honorable Court enter judgment in their favor and against Defendant, and Order the following relief:

- a. Actual damages;
 - b. Treble damages;
 - c. An award of reasonable attorneys fees and expenses and costs of court;
- and
- d. Such additional relief as is deemed just and proper, or that the interests of justice require.

COUNT III

**VIOLATIONS OF PENNSYLVANIA CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW
("UTPCPL"), 73 Pa. C.S. § 201-1 et seq.**

- 31. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.
- 32. Plaintiffs and Defendant are "Persons" to 73 Pa. C.S § 201-2.
- 33. The UTPCPL proscribes, inter alia, engaging in any "unfair or deceptive acts or practices", either at, and prior to or subsequent to a consumer transaction.
- 34. The action of Defendant, as aforesaid, constitutes unfair acts or practices under the UTPCPL, by way of the following, inter alia:

a. Defendant misrepresented to Plaintiffs the character, extent or amount of the debt or its status in a legal proceeding, 73 Pa. C.S. § 201-3.1;

b. Defendant engaged in deceptive or fraudulent conduct which created a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding, 73 Pa. C.S. § 201-2(xxi);

c. Defendant failed to comply with the FDCPA and PAFCEUA which are per se violations of the UTPCPL.

35. As a direct and proximate result of the said actions, Plaintiffs have suffered financial damages and other harm.

36. By virtue of the violations of law aforesaid and pursuant to the UTPCPL, Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of actual damages, treble damages, attorney's fees and costs of suit.

WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray this Honorable Court enter judgment in their favor and against Defendant, and Order the following relief:

- a. An Order declaring that Defendant violated the UTPCPL;
- b. Actual damages;
- c. Treble damages;
- d. An award of reasonable attorney's fees and expenses and cost of suit; and
- e. Such additional relief as is deemed just and proper, or that the interest of justice may require.

V. JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial as to all issues herein.

Respectfully submitted,

WARREN & VULLINGS, LLP

Date: July 31, 2009

BY: /s/ Brent F. Vullings
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